



1600 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
916-654-3551

November 30, 2004

Dear Stakeholders:

The passage of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) has created the expectation of the most comprehensive planning process within the public mental health system that California has ever seen. The multiple components of the Act are designed to seamlessly support one another, leading to the creation of a transformed mental health services system. The California Department of Mental Health (DMH) and the stakeholders in the public mental health system have begun to envision what this transformed system would look like, and what work needs to be done to achieve this vision. There is much to accomplish but the California mental health community has the energy, will and knowledge to be successful.

DMH is committed to proceeding in partnership with stakeholders to define specific processes and requirements under the MHSA. One of the first challenges is balancing the need and desire for rapid planning and implementation with an inclusive and thoughtful stakeholder process that is consistent with the intent of the Act.

As previously announced, the first statewide MHSA stakeholders meeting to begin the collaborative planning process with stakeholders is on Friday, December 17, 2004 from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Due to significant stakeholder response to our announcement of the meeting, we have changed the site of the December 17th meeting to accommodate the significant participation we anticipate. The new location is:

**Elks Club
6446 Riverside Boulevard
Sacramento, CA 95831**

An Elks Club buffet lunch can be obtained for \$10 for those who reserve beforehand. Payment must be available in cash the day of the meeting. Please RSVP to Charlene Kessler at (916) 654-5691 or Charlene.Kessler@dmh.ca.gov by December 10, 2004 if you would like to have the buffet lunch. There are few fast food and restaurant options in the immediate area.

The Elks Club is wheelchair-accessible. A sign-language interpreter is available upon request. If you require such assistance, please inform Charlene Kessler at (916) 654-5691 by December 10, 2004.

The objectives for the meeting are to:

- Provide information and obtain input about initial draft strategies and timeframes to implement the MHSA.
- Review and comment on the draft documents that are attached to this letter ([Attachment A](#) summarizes the purpose of each of the documents.)
 - [Vision Statement \(Attachment B\)](#)
 - [Required Contents, County Requests for Funding for MHSA Planning \(Attachment C\)](#)
 - [County Readiness Self-assessment for Implementation of the MHSA, Systems of Care Services Component \(Attachment D\)](#)
- [Discuss principles to be used in determining county allocation amounts for planning.](#)
- Obtain input regarding the design of the ongoing DMH MHSA stakeholder process.

The agenda for the stakeholders meeting will be posted on the DMH web site, www.dmh.ca.gov, by December 10, 2004. The documents to be reviewed at the stakeholders meeting on December 17th are attached and will also be posted on the DMH web site, www.dmh.ca.gov. Any revisions to the attached documents will be posted by December 10th along with the meeting agenda. Anyone wanting hard copies of the documents should call 916-654-3551 or e-mail to mhsa@dmh.ca.gov. Any additional information about the stakeholders meeting, if necessary, will be posted the DMH website.

For those unable to attend the stakeholders meeting, comments will also be accepted on-line at mhsa@dmh.ca.gov or in writing. Written comments should be addressed to:

MHSA
Carol Hood, Deputy Director
Department of Mental Health
1600 9th Street, Room 130
Sacramento, CA 95814.

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There will be a Consumer and Families Pre-Meeting on Thursday, December 16, 2004 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The purpose of the pre-meeting is to provide consumers and families with any necessary background information in order to fully participate at the stakeholders meeting on December 17th. The pre-meeting will be held at:

Expo Room
Best Western Expo Inn
1401 Howe Avenue
Sacramento

This facility is wheelchair-accessible.

We look forward to your participation at the state and local levels as we work together to implement the MHSA.

Sincerely,

CAROL HOOD
Deputy Director
Systems of Care Division

Enclosures